



CITY COUNCIL

Administrative Oversight and Land Use Committee

**Monday, August 15, 2011
Meeting Report**

Attendance: S. Marmarou, D. Reed

Others Attending: S. Katzenmoyer

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm by Mr. Marmarou.

I. Interviews

Sarah Jacobson and JoAnne Brancadora (appointment – Redistricting Committee)

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Ms. Jacobson was interested in serving. Ms. Jacobson stated that she was approached to serve by Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz. She stated that her background will be helpful to the Committee.

Mr. Marmarou questioned why Ms. Brancadora was interested in serving. Ms. Brancadora stated that she served on the Committee to form the initial Council Districts. She stated that it was meaningful work and that her math and social science skills are beneficial to the process.

Mr. Marmarou questioned how much the districts changed after the last census. Ms. Brancadora stated that no changes were needed. She stated that the City was equal in number and ethnicity. Ms. Reed stated that with the increase in population with this census and the increase in Latino residents, there may or may not be need for change. She expressed her belief that the census numbers are not accurate and the City has many more residents.

Ms. Brancadora questioned when the Committee would begin working. Ms. Reed noted the need to begin quickly and would probably meet within the next month.

Ms. Brancadora stated that she will not gerrymander the City. Mr. Marmarou described problems combining polling places.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Sarah Jacobson and JoAnne Brancadora to the Redistricting Committee.

The Administrative Oversight Committee moved to Committee of the Whole at 5:15 pm.

The Administrative Oversight Committee reconvened at 6 pm with Ms. Reed and Ms. Katzenmoyer in attendance.

Otis Smith (appointment – Recreation Commission)

Ms. Reed questioned why Mr. Smith was interested in this position. Mr. Smith stated that the formation of a Recreation Commission is an excellent partnership with the Reading School District. He expressed his belief that this Commission can accomplish things the City never dreamed possible. He noted his hope that signs of good things to come will be visible within the first year.

Ms. Reed questioned if Mr. Smith was familiar with Lancaster's Recreation Commission. Mr. Smith stated that he has heard Ms. Landes, Lancaster's Executive Director, speak several times at conferences and has viewed their website. He stated that he was a member of the work group formed to move the Recreation Commission forward, of which Ms. Landis was facilitator, and noted the need to eliminate the duplication of services.

Ms. Reed questioned the existence other Recreation Commissions. Mr. Smith stated that Exeter has recently formed a Recreation Commission. He expressed his hope that the City boundaries would be erased and all municipalities would cooperate with regard to recreation.

Ms. Reed questioned if there was anything else Mr. Smith would like to add. Mr. Smith stated that he is looking forward to the challenge. He noted the need for the City to analyze the missions of the Recreation Commission and the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee and find solutions to the City's need for recreation.

Ms. Reed voiced her support of Mr. Smith, adding that he has been involved in this process from the beginning.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Otis Smith to the Recreation Commission.

Eddie Moran (appointment – Recreation Commission)

Ms. Reed thanked Mr. Moran for his willingness to serve. She questioned why he was interested in serving on the Recreation Commission. Mr. Moran stated that he hopes to be a productive member of the community and especially enjoys working with youth issues.

Ms. Reed stated that during Mr. Moran's campaign for Reading School Board, it was clear that he cared about children. Mr. Moran stated that this would allow him to pursue his passion.

Ms. Reed noted Mr. Moran's background in marketing and noted that it would be excellent as the Recreation Commission reaches out to residents. Mr. Moran stated that he is also bilingual and that this will also assist. He expressed his thanks for being considered for membership and stated that it would be an honor and a pleasure to serve. He stated that he is also open-minded.

Ms. Reed stated that this Commission faces a great deal of work and noted that the Commission would serve as a Board of Directors to the executive director. She noted that they would need to select an executive director.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the Commission will have eleven members and that a quorum of appointees will be needed before meetings can begin. She noted her hope that this would occur soon. Ms. Reed noted her hope that work begin within a month.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Eddie Moran to the Recreation Commission.

Jose Borrás-Osorio (appointment – Recreation Commission)

Ms. Reed reviewed Mr. Osorio's background and noted that he is an employee of the Reading School District. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that this may make him ineligible to serve as the agreement states that appointees may not be employees of the City or Reading School District. Mr. Osorio stated that he has been coaching athletics for many years. He stated that he was the Director of Recreation in Puerto Rico and has a graduate degree in Recreation Administration. He noted his hope that he would be able to serve.

Ms. Reed questioned if Mr. Osorio was interested in serving in another capacity. Mr. Osorio stated that he was not interested in serving elsewhere at this time. He noted the need for recreational programming for adults as well as youth. He noted the City's ability to collaborate with senior facilities and his wealth of knowledge and that he would also assist with facility improvements.

Ms. Reed questioned if an exception could be made for this appointment. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she would discuss this with the Solicitor.

Mr. Osorio stated that he is still active and is bilingual. He stated that recreation is not only active, but is also passive.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of Jose Borrás-Osorio to the Recreation Commission pending the opinion of the Solicitor.

William Seidel (appointment – Redistricting Committee)

Ms. Reed questioned why Mr. Seidel was interested in serving. Mr. Seidel noted his hope to contribute to the community and stated that the short term nature of this Committee appealed to him. He noted his interest in learning the political process.

Ms. Reed stated that Mr. Seidel is a poll worker and knows the demographics of District 5. She questioned if Mr. Seidel had any concerns. She noted that the census results may or may not cause the Council districts to change. Mr. Seidel stated that he sees the demographics of District 5 at the polls. He noted that he had no concerns and is looking forward to this interesting work.

The Administrative Oversight Committee recommends the appointment of William Seidel to the Redistricting Committee.

The Administrative Oversight Committee adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Shelly Katzenmoyer,
Deputy City Clerk